- Expand the existing Indo-Myanmar Border Trade Agreement from the existing 22 items to 40 items.
- Establish banking systems with foreign exchange facilities at Moreh and Zowkhathar to begin with.

(iii) Construction of Rhi-Tidim and Rhi-Falam roads by India in Myanmar to operationalize the India-Myanmar border trading point at Rhi-Zokhawthar.

Thailand

Exploring the investment opportunities in the identified sectors like road, power, tourism, inland water transport, agriculture etc. with the business delegations from Thailand led by the Thai Minister of Commerce in June 2007, through North East India Trade and Investment Opportunities Week, organized by Ministry of DoNER in association with Indian Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata and Thai Department of Trade & Negotiations from 1-4 October, 2007 at Bangkok. Followed by another visit by a Thai delegation headed by the Deputy Minister of Industry of Thailand to the States of Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam from 9-12 January, 2008 to farther explore the areas of cooperation through exchange of information and visits of organized trade, investment & tourism delegations to promote Thailand-India trade and investment. It was followed-up by the visit of the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand in October 2009 with a view to consolidate the socio-economic relations between the two countries in areas of mutual business interests.

Minister for External Affairs had also taken a high level meeting on 31.10.2007 on the Look East Policy with the Chief Ministers of the North Eastern States and the Central Ministries concerned so as to formulate a strategy for a meaningful involvement of the North Eastern Region in the Look East Policy. The follow-up on the issues emerging out of the High Level Meeting on the Look East Policy are advocated by the Ministry of DoNER with the concerned line Ministries and the State Governments as these evolve on the basis of India's on-going diplomatic initiatives with the concerned countries. A Task Force was also set up in the Ministry of DoNER to review the progress.

Amount of NLCPR

2638. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) during 2007-08 and 2008-09;

(b) whether all the departments have contributed to NLCPR to the extent they should;

(c) the percentage of NLCPR distributed over the projects in the North-Eastern States and spent upto 31 October, 2009; and

(d) the manner in which Government proposes to improve its monitoring of the works for timely completion of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) As per information received from various Ministries/Departments the accruals to the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) during 2007-08 is Rs. 1897.49 crore and during 2008-09 is Rs. 1449.42 crore.

(b) All the Central Ministries/Departments, excluding those exempted, have to earmark at least 10% of their GBS every year for the North Eastern Region. The unspent balance of the 10% GBS earmarked for North East Region of these Ministries/Departments does not lapse but automatically gets transferred to the Central Pool of Resources called Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources.

(c) Upto 31.10.2009, total 1071 projects at an estimated cost of Rs.8249.25 crore have been sanctioned and Rs.5969.90 crore released to the North Eastern States from NLCPR scheme. The State-wise percentage of the approved projects andfunds released for their implementation is given in the following Table.

State	No. of Projects	Approved Cost		Funds Released
		Amount	%	
Arunachal Pradesh	111	1144.01	13.87	740.95
Assam	317	I 2102.70	25.49	1523.38
Manipur	113	981.67	11.90	655.37
Meghalaya	67	600.84	7.28	408.40
Mizoram	84	656.52	7.96	531.49
Nagaland	112	1011.47	12.26	734.26
Sikkim	197	664.84	8.06	505.32
Tripura	66	1065.79	12.92	852.27
Common to NER	4	21.41	0.26	18.46
Total	1071	8249.25	100.00	5969.90

(d) To improve the monitoring of projects the review meetings with the State government officers are arranged periodically. The officers of the Ministry of DoNER also make field visits to review and inspect the projects. Further, the earlier Guidelines of NLCPR were studied and amended in the interest of expeditious implementation of projects.

Ganga river basin authority

2639. DR. (SHR1MATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has set up the Ganga River Basin Authority, which is an inter-State and Centre group;